

**To:** Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** McCoy, Melinda[McCoy.Melinda@epa.gov]; Garcia, David[Garcia.David@epa.gov]; \$F Div. Weekly[\$F\_Div.\_Weekly@epa.gov]; Crossland, Ronnie[Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov]; Restivo, Angela[Restivo.Angela@epa.gov]  
**From:** Watson, Jane  
**Sent:** Mon 8/10/2015 10:42:31 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Water Quality Criteria - Animas River

Hello David,

We've looked into this.

Working with the Environmental Unit in Superfund, Water Division provided some programmatic benchmarks, namely the New Mexico Water Quality Standards, that could factor into the EU's assessment. They may choose from other benchmarks, depending on the pollutant. The WQS themselves have several different values for the same chemical, depending on the uses a water supports (supporting a fishery from short term effects or long term effects, eating fish safely, raw drinking water source, eg).

The EU will derive the list of benchmarks the sediment and/or water data is compared to, this might not be the whole suite of New Mexico WQS. For this reason, we're thinking referencing the New Mexico WQS won't inform folks.

Thanks,

Jane

**From:** Garcia, David  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 1:15 PM  
**To:** Gray, David  
**Cc:** Watson, Jane; McCoy, Melinda  
**Subject:** FW: Water Quality Criteria - Animas River

David,

Please hold on making this document public. Our water quality technical experts prefer to QA and double check spreadsheet. Stay tuned for update.

David F. Garcia

Deputy Director

Water Quality

Protection Division

U.S. EPA Region 6

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**From:** Garcia, David

**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 11:50 AM

**To:** David Gray

**Cc:** McCoy, Melinda; Watson, Jane; Ronnie Crossland ([Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov](mailto:Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov)); Restivo, Angela

**Subject:** FW: Water Quality Criteria - Animas River

David,

Per your request attached are the NM WQS that apply to the Animas River. Please note, there are two tabs.

David F. Garcia

Deputy Director

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**From:** Brown, Jamesr

**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 11:08 AM

**To:** Garcia, David

**Subject:** FW: Water Quality Criteria - Animas River

Sent from my Windows Phone

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**From:** McCoy, Melinda

**Sent:** 8/7/2015 2:36 PM

**To:** Brown, Jamesr; Kirkland, Robert; McCasland, Mark; Garcia, David; Restivo, Angela

**Cc:** Foster, Althea; Crossland, Ronnie; Webster, Susan; Martinez, Maria; Crocker, Philip; Nelson, Russell

**Subject:** Water Quality Criteria - Animas River

Hi Everyone,

Earlier this morning, David and Maria asked me to compile the WQS applicable to the Animas River, and to identify any previous water quality impairments (303d listings) identified. Earlier today, I sent them a list of the applicable designated uses and the 303(d) listing information (see emails forwarded below).

Additionally, I have compiled an Excel spreadsheet showing the water quality criteria applicable to the two Animas River segments. Please see attached Excel file.

Thanks,

Melinda

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Melinda McCoy, Environmental Scientist

Water Quality Standards Program

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[mccoy.melinda@epa.gov](mailto:mccoy.melinda@epa.gov)

**From:** McCoy, Melinda  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 11:31 AM  
**To:** Garcia, David; Martinez, Maria; Brown, Jamesr  
**Cc:** Nelson, Russell  
**Subject:** Animas River WQS

Hi David and Maria,

The Animas River is a considered classified water. It is split into 2 segments between the NM/CO state line and it's confluence with the San Juan River. Estes Arroyo is the dividing line between the 2 segments. (See NMAC 20.6.4.403-404).

The table below shows the designated uses applicable to these 2 segments:

<b>Animas from confluence with San Juan upstream to Estes Arroyo</b>	<b>Animas from Estes Arroyo upstream to NM/CO line</b>
Marginal coldwater and warmwater	Coldwater
Primary Contact	Primary Contact
Public Water Supply	Public Water Supply
Industrial Water Supply	Industrial Water Supply
Irrigation	Irrigation
Livestock watering	Livestock watering
Wildlife Habitat	Wildlife Habitat

The criteria applicable to each of these designated uses can be found in NMAC 6.4.900 (see attachment). I can compile all of this into an Excel spreadsheet, but for the sake of time, I'm just including the attachment right now.

Note that the DO, temperature, and pH criteria differ for each aquatic life use:

**Coldwater:** dissolved oxygen 6.0 mg/L or more, 6T3 temperature 20°C (68°F), maximum temperature 24°C (75°F) and pH within the range of 6.6 to 8.8. Where a single segment-specific temperature criterion is indicated in 20.6.4.101-899 NMAC, it is the maximum temperature and no 6T3 temperature applies.

**Marginal Coldwater:** dissolved oxygen 6 mg/L or more, 6T3 temperature 25°C (77°F), maximum temperature 29°C (84°F) and pH within the range from 6.6 to 9.0. Where a single segment-specific

temperature criterion is indicated in 20.6.4.101-899 NMAC, it is the maximum temperature and no 6T3 temperature applies.

**Warmwater:** dissolved oxygen 5 mg/L or more, maximum temperature 32.2°C (90°F) and pH within the range of 6.6 to 9.0. Where a segment-specific temperature criterion is indicated in 20.6.4.101-899 NMAC, it is the maximum temperature.

I'll send you the 303d information as soon as I gather it.

Thanks,

Melinda

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Melinda McCoy, Environmental Scientist

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**From:** McCoy, Melinda  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 11:44 AM  
**To:** Garcia, David; Martinez, Maria; Brown, James  
**Cc:** Nelson, Russell  
**Subject:** Animas 303d listings (2014-2016 reporting cycle)

Hi David, Maria, and Jim,

From New Mexico's 2014-2016 Integrated Report. Here are the impairments identified for the Animas River (categories 4 and 5).

8-digit HUC	AU_ID	AU Name	WASTES	QS	IR	EPA	CYC
USGS HUC			SIZE	REFERENCE	IMPACT	STATUS	FIRST
					Category	TMDL Approval Date	LIST
					(by AU)		
14080104	NM- 2404_00	Animas River (Estes Arroyo to So. Ute Indian Tribe bnd)	18.8 MILES	Estes Arroyo	5/5B	TMDL Completed 2013-09-30 00:00:00	2012
14080104	NM- 2404_00	Animas River (Estes Arroyo to So. Ute Indian Tribe bnd)	18.8 MILES	Phosphorus total	5/5B	TMDL Completed 2013-09-30 00:00:00	2012
14080104	NM- 2404_00	Animas River (Estes Arroyo to So. Ute Indian Tribe bnd)	18.8 MILES	Temperature	5/5B	303(d) List (no TMDL in place)	1998

14080104	Animas NM- Animas River (Estes	18.8 MILES	Turbidity	5/5B	303(d)		
	2404 - Arroyo to So. Ute				List (no	2012	
	Indian Tribe bnd)				TMDL in		
14080104	Animas NM- Animas River (San	16.8 MILES	EC	4A	TMDL	2013-09-2012	
	2403 - Arroyo River to Estes				Completed	30	
	Arroyo)					00:00:00	
14080104	Animas NM- Animas River (San	16.8 MILES	Nutrient/Eutrophication	4A	TMDL	2006-01-2004	
	2403 - Arroyo River to Estes				Completed	17	
	Arroyo)					00:00:00	
14080104	Animas NM- Animas River (San	16.8 MILES	Temperature	4A	TMDL	2013-09-2012	
	2403 - Arroyo River to Estes				Completed	30	
	Arroyo)					00:00:00	
	NM-				303(d)		
14080104	9000 - Lake Farmington	198 ACRES	Mercury in fish tissue	5/5A	List (no	2004	
	(Beeline Reservoir)				TMDL in		
					place)		

### **Category Description**

**4A** Available data and/or information indicate that at least one designated or existing use is not being supported, but a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is not needed because TMDLs have been already been established.

**5A** Available data and/or information indicate that at least one designated or existing use is not being supported and necessary TMDLs are underway or scheduled.

**5B** Available data and/or information indicate that at least one designated or existing use is not being supported and a review of the water quality standard will be conducted to verify appropriateness.

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Melinda McCoy, Environmental Scientist

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